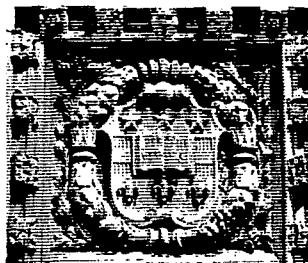


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WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Memorandum. No. 72/3

March, 1972

(NASA-CR-129283) A COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR
MAPPING SATELLITE-BORNE NARROW-BEAM ANTENNA
FOOTPRINTS ON EARTH T.W. Stagl, et al
(Washington Univ.) Mar. 1972 29 p CSCL

N73-12149

Unclassified
48618

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A COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR MAPPING SATELLITE-BORNE NARROW-BEAM ANTENNA FOOTPRINTS ON EARTH

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WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY / ST. LOUIS / MISSOURI 63130

PROGRAM ON APPLICATION OF COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES
TO EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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A COMPUTER PROGRAM
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This research is supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under Grant No. Y/NGL-26-008-054. This memorandum is primarily for internal distribution and does not necessarily represent the views of either the research team as a whole or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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-1-

A COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR MAPPING SATELLITE-BORNE
NARROW-BEAM ANTENNA FOOTPRINTS ON EARTH

I. INTRODUCTION

A computer program has been developed that computes the locus of intersection of a quadric cone and a sphere. The outputs of the program are a list of the longitude and latitude coordinates of the locus of intersection and a plot of the locus. It was written primarily to define the area of the earth covered by a narrow-beam antenna carried on a synchronous satellite in circular, near equatorial orbits.

The program is basically an implementation of a report by S. L. Zolnay^[1] with some modifications added. The main modifications are the incorporation of an elliptical cross section antenna beam and computation of the beam vertex angles and corresponding locus of intersection for any signal level between 0.1 and 10 db down from the beam center. Any number of signals up to 10 may be input for each data set. The output will be plotted on the same graph.

The program was written for use with a Cal Comp 570/563 off-line plotting system and uses the standard Cal Comp subroutines supplied with the system. The plot is drawn using linear longitude and latitude scales and non-linear scales such as Mercator scales cannot be used.

It should be noted that this program assumes the earth to be spherical rather than oblate as it actually is. However, by assuming a spherical earth, one introduces maximum error distances of about 11.5 nautical miles. For many purposes, this error can be ignored.

II. MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS

Figure 1 shows the intersection geometry. The satellite is located at point SAT in a circular, near-equatorial orbit which is a distance DIST from center of the earth. Point P is the point of intersection of satellite antenna boresight (or beam center) and the earth. AL is the arc from the point on earth directly below the satellite (the subsatellite point) to P and is given by:

$$AL = \cos^{-1} [\cos(LONCTR)\cos(LATCTR + DELT)] \quad (1)$$

Where LATCTR is latitude of P, LONCTR is the longitude of P relative to the subsatellite point, and DELT is the instantaneous declination angle formed by a vector from satellite to the center of the earth and the equatorial plane. At $DIST = \frac{22,360}{39,220}$ statute miles (geostationary equatorial orbit when $DELT = 0$), the maximum arc, AL, permissible for the point to be seen by the satellite is 81.3° . When AL is computed to be larger than 81.3° , the point is over the horizon seen by the satellite and any attempt at finding the locus of intersection would produce meaningless results. Therefore, the computation stops at this point.

The next step is to calculate the vector, RS, extending from the satellite to point P. A right-handed coordinate system is constructed with the origin at SAT, the positive Y axis extending through the earth center and the Z axis in the plane defined by SAT and the north and south poles. The vector RS is given in terms of coordinates along these axes:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{RS} = RE \cos(LATCTR) \sin(LONCTR) & \underline{i} + \\ [DIST \cos(DELT) - RE \cos(LATCTR) \cos(LONCTR)] & \underline{j} + \\ [DIST \sin(DELT) + RE \sin(LATCTR)] & \underline{k} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Where RE is radius of earth, and i, j and k are unit vectors in the positive x, y, and z directions, respectively.

Pitch and roll angles are then defined as in Figure 2. These are given by:

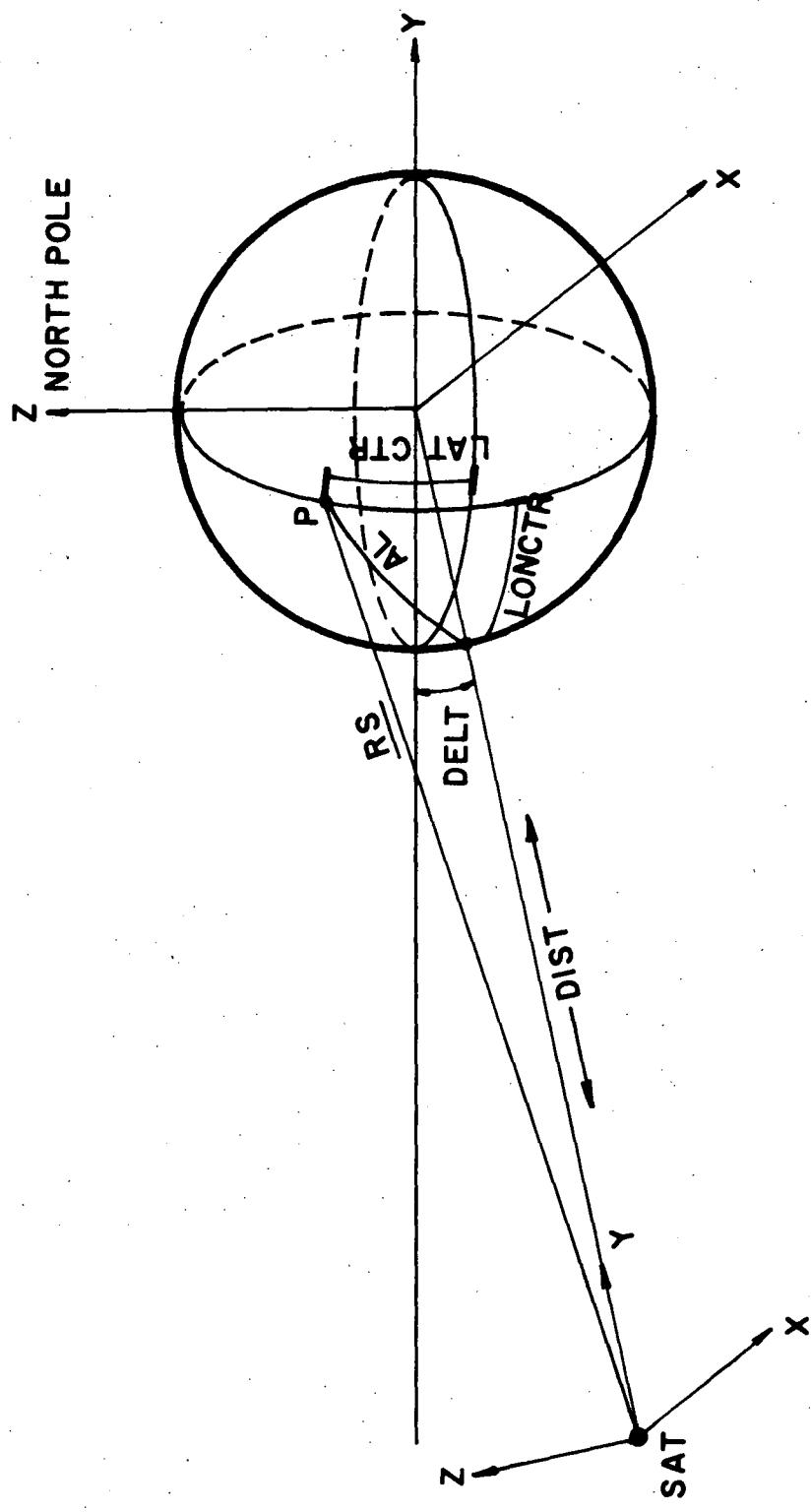


FIGURE I GEOMETRY OF INTERSECTION

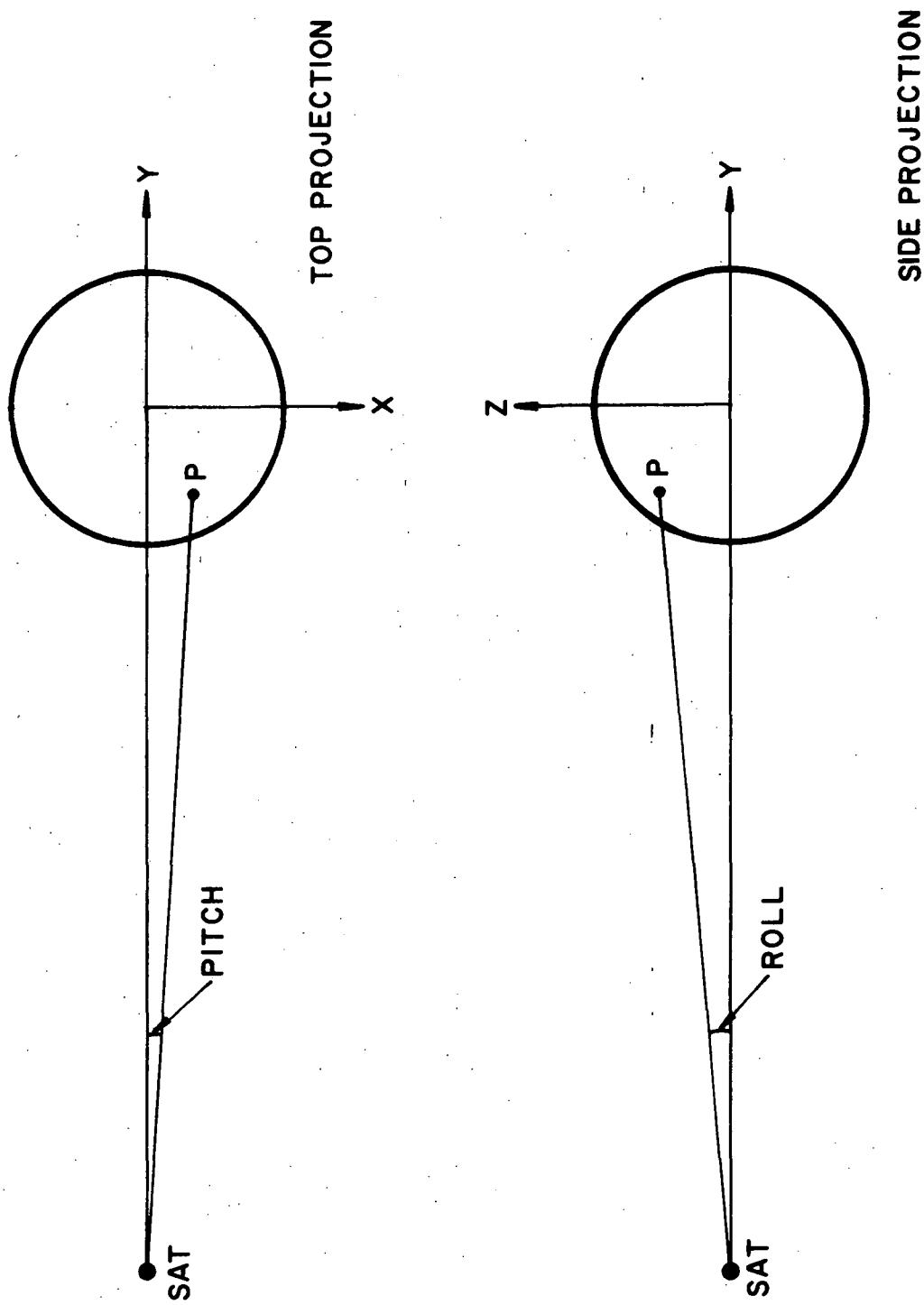


FIGURE 2 GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF PITCH AND ROLL ANGLES

$$\text{PITCH} = \sin^{-1} \frac{\underline{RS}_i}{\sqrt{\underline{RS}_i^2 + \underline{RS}_j^2}} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{ROLL} = \tan^{-1} \frac{\underline{RS}_k}{\sqrt{\underline{RS}_i^2 + \underline{RS}_j^2}} \quad (4)$$

A new coordinate system is defined by rotating the old system about its z-axis by an angle equal to PITCH, and then about the resultant x-axis by an angle equal to ROLL.

A vector U is then defined as lying in a plane perpendicular to vector RS. The origin of vector U is at the point of intersection of RS and that plane, see Figure 3.

The equation defining U is:

$$\underline{U} = [\cos(\text{BETA}) \underline{i}' + \sin(\text{BETA}) \underline{k}'] [A^{-2}\cos^2(\text{BETA}) + B^{-2}\sin^2(\text{BETA})]^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (5)$$

where i' and k' are unit vectors in the new coordinate system. This equation is a parametric equation of an ellipse with BETA as the parameter and A and B corresponding to the semi-major and semi-minor axes, respectively.

A ray on the surface of the beam can now be generated by a vectorial addition of RS and U. By incrementing BETA from 0° to 360° the entire outer surface of the beam can be generated.

Let a vector Mn be a surface generator vector. The equation defining Mn in the new coordinate system is:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{Mn} = & [|RS| \cos(\text{ROLL}) \sin(\text{PITCH}) + |\underline{U}| \cos(\text{BETA}) \cos(\text{PITCH}) \\ & - |\underline{U}| \sin(\text{BETA}) \sin(\text{ROLL}) \sin(\text{PITCH})] \underline{i}' \\ & + [|RS| \cos(\text{ROLL}) \cos(\text{PITCH}) + |\underline{U}| \cos(\text{BETA}) \sin(\text{PITCH}) \\ & - |\underline{U}| \sin(\text{BETA}) \sin(\text{ROLL}) \cos(\text{PITCH})] \underline{j}' \\ & + [|RS| \sin(\text{ROLL}) + |\underline{U}| \sin(\text{BETA}) \cos(\text{ROLL})] \underline{k}' \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

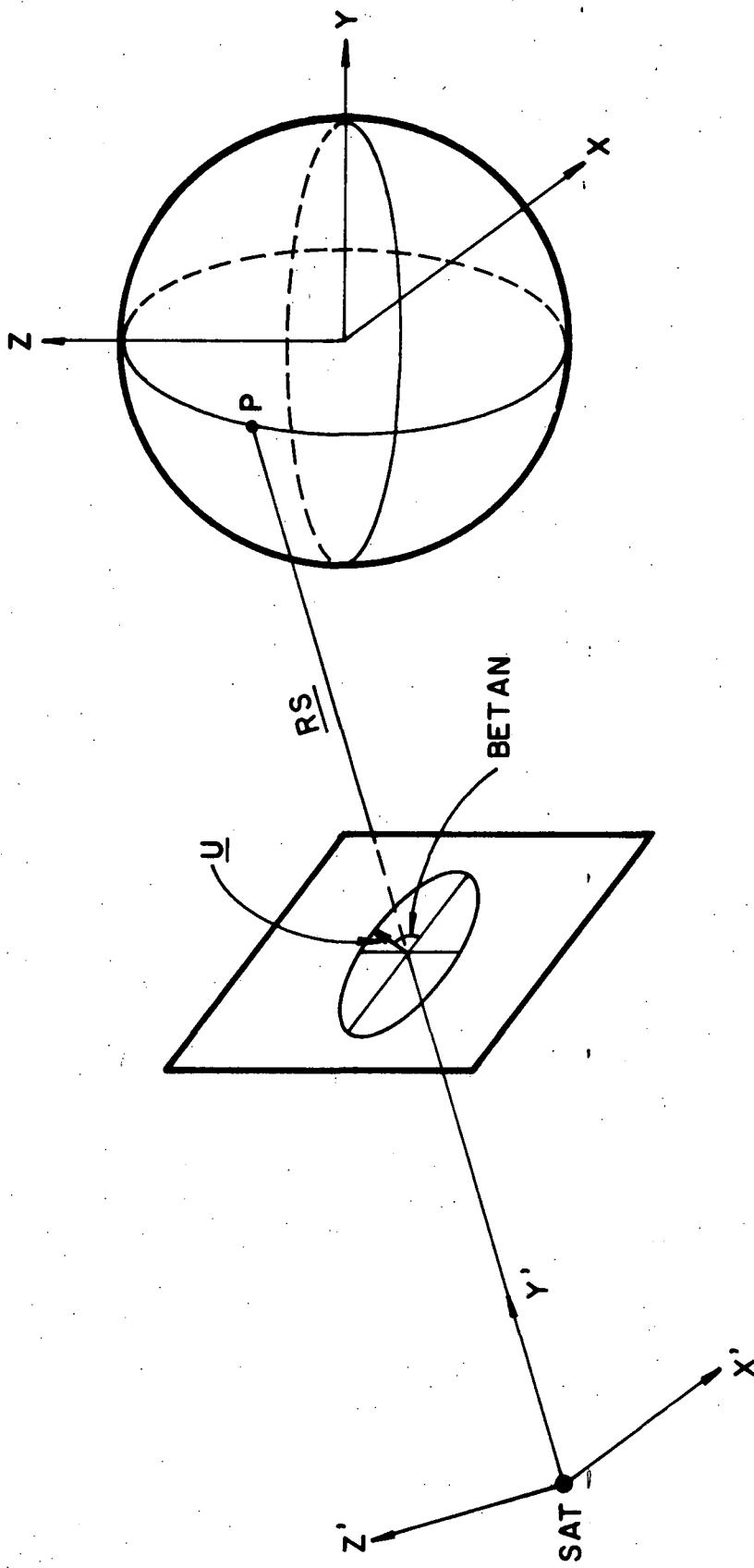


FIGURE 3 GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF BEAM CROSS SECTION

In the old coordinate system:

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{Mn} = & [Mn_{\underline{i}'}] \underline{i} + [Mn_{\underline{j}'} \cos(\text{DELT}) + Mn_{\underline{k}'} \sin(\text{DELT})] \underline{j} \\ & + [-Mn_{\underline{j}'} \sin(\text{DELT}) + Mn_{\underline{k}'} \cos(\text{DELT})] \underline{k}\end{aligned}\quad (7)$$

Pitch and roll angles are defined for each \underline{Mn} as follows:

$$\text{PITCH N} = \text{Sin}^{-1} \frac{Mn_{\underline{i}'}}{\sqrt{Mn_{\underline{i}'}^2 + Mn_{\underline{j}'}^2}} \quad (8)$$

$$\text{ROLL N} = \text{Tan}^{-1} \frac{Mn_{\underline{k}'}}{\sqrt{Mn_{\underline{i}'}^2 + Mn_{\underline{j}'}^2}} \quad (9)$$

The earth radius vector to the point of intersection of \underline{Mn} is:

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{RE} = & [Mn \cos(\text{ROLLN}) \sin(\text{PITCHN})] \underline{i} \\ & + [\text{DIST} \cos(\text{DELT}) - Mn \cos(\text{ROLLN}) \cos(\text{PITCHN})] \underline{j} \\ & + [Mn \sin(\text{ROLLN}) - \text{DIST} \sin(\text{DELT})] \underline{k}\end{aligned}\quad (10)$$

Where Mn is the length of \underline{Mn} and \underline{i} , \underline{j} , and \underline{k} are unit vectors in an earth centered coordinate system whose positive z axis extends through the north pole and positive x axis intersects the 0° meridian.

The latitude and relative longitude coordinates of the point of intersection of \underline{Mn} are found by:

$$\text{LAT} = \text{Tan}^{-1} \frac{RE_{\underline{k}'}}{\sqrt{RE_{\underline{i}'}^2 + RE_{\underline{j}'}^2}} \quad (11)$$

$$\text{LON} = \text{Sin}^{-1} \frac{RE_{\underline{i}'}}{\sqrt{RE_{\underline{i}'}^2 + RE_{\underline{j}'}^2}} \quad (12)$$

The actual longitude is found by adding the above longitude to the longitude of the subsatellite point.

The relative beamwidth for any signal level is found using a beamwidth conversion chart. The particular chart used in this program is taken from Microwave Engineers Handbook^[2], (see Figure 4). The actual conversion in the program is done by using linear interpolation between the appropriate two consecutive points from the following set:

$$(.1, .18) (.2, .26) (.5, .4) (1., .56) (1.5, .7) (3., 1.) (5., 1.27) (10., 1.7)$$

These points were chosen such that the graph segment between any two consecutive points is approximately linear.

The above discussion assumes that the entire antenna beam intersects the earth. The case when the boresight location is near enough to the horizon that a portion of the beam passes the earth is considered next.

Define an angle, B_n formed by the vector \underline{Mn} and the vector from the satellite to earth center. The angle at which \underline{Mn} is tangent to the earth is given, from the law of sines, as:

$$B_{\max} = \sin^{-1} \frac{RE}{DIST} \quad (13)$$

When the angle B_n is larger than B_{\max} the earth radius vector RE must be computed to the point of tangency, i.e. the horizon seen by the satellite. The vector RE is then defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} RE = & RE [\cos(B_{\max}) \sin(TAUN)] \underline{I} \\ & - RE [\cos(DELTA) \sin(B_{\max}) \\ & + \sin(DELTA) \cos(B_{\max}) \cos(TAUN)] \underline{J} \\ & - RE [\sin(DELTA) \sin(B_{\max}) \\ & - \cos(DELTA) \cos(B_{\max}) \cos(TAUN)] \underline{K} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

When TAUN is the tilt angle defined by:

$$TAUN = \cos^{-1} \frac{\underline{Mn}_k}{\sqrt{\underline{Mn}_i^2 + \underline{Mn}_k^2}} \quad (15)$$

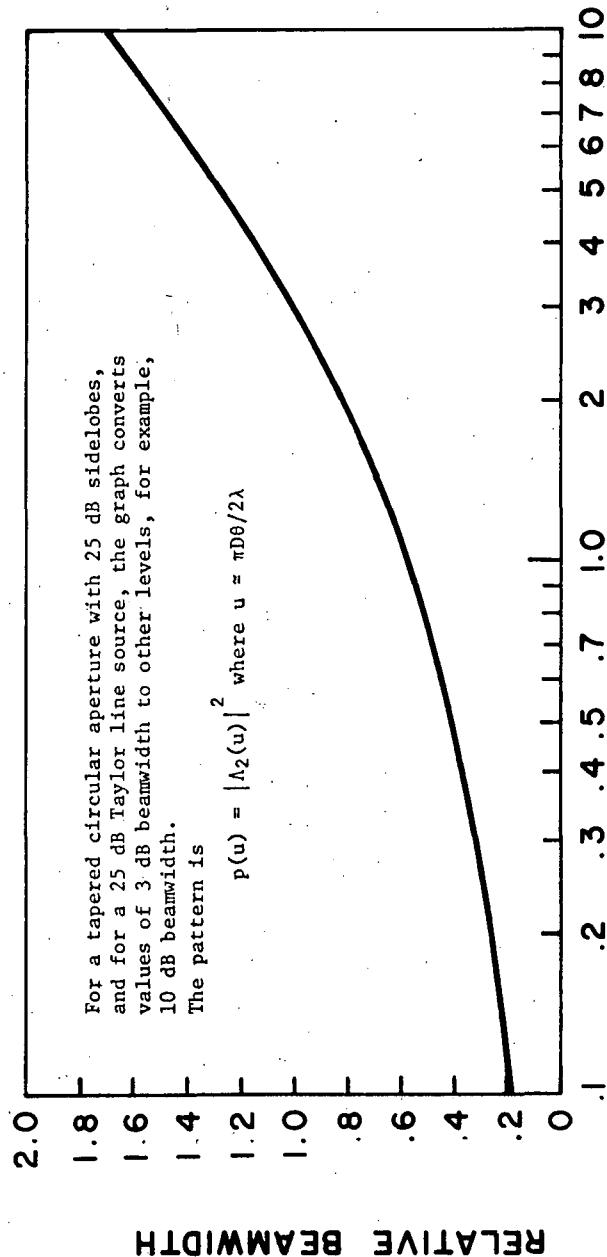


FIGURE 4 BEAMWIDTH CONVERSION

and RE is the radius of the earth. The latitude and relative longitude coordinate are found as in equations (11) and (12).

III. USAGE

The inputs to the program are:

- LONSS - longitude of point on earth directly below satellite ($^{\circ}$ E)
- LONCT - longitude of boresight intersection ($^{\circ}$ E)
- LATCT - latitude of boresight intersection ($^{\circ}$ N)
- INCR - increments of angular parameter BETA, i.e. number of points plotted = $360^{\circ}/\text{INCR}$
- DELT - instantaneous declination of satellite - earth center vector from plane of equator ($^{\circ}$ below equatorial plane)
- THETA - orientation angle of elliptical beam about beam center (measured positive counter-clockwise)
- BW1 - beam vertex angle in plane defined by beam vertex and major axis of beam cross section at point 3 db below beam center
- BW2 - beam vertex angle in plane defined by beam vertex and minor axis of beam cross section at point 3 db below beam center
- L - number of signal levels to be plotted
- DB(I) - signal levels to be plotted (measured in db below beam center)

It should be noted that all inputs except L and DB(I) are in degrees rather than radians. Longitude inputs can be expressed as degrees east of 0° or negative degrees west of 0° . The output will agree with the input.

Each input data set will consist of three cards. The format for the data is:

Card #1

column	
1 - 9	LONSS
10 - 18	LONCT
19 - 27	LATCT
28 - 36	INCR
37 - 45	DELT

Card #2

1 - 9	THETA
10 - 18	BW1
19 - 27	BW2
28 - 29	L

Card #3

1 - 7	
8 - 14	DB(I)
15 - 21	

Every input, with the exception of L, must contain a decimal point. The input L must not contain a decimal point and must be right justified in columns 28-29, i.e. single digit input must be in column 29. The inputs DB(I) must be input in increasing order with the signal level closest to beam center listed first and the level farthest from beam center listed last.

The output of the program consists of two parts, the printout and the plot. The printout contains, for each set of input data, a list of the following parameters:

SUB SAT LONG - longitude of point directly below satellite
BOR SGHT LONG - longitude of boresight intersection
BOR SGHT LAT - latitude of boresight intersection
DECLINATION - instantaneous declination of satellite-earth center vector
from equatorial plane
MIN BMWDTH - beamwidth along minor axis of beam cross section at -3 db
(half-power) level
MAX BMWDTH - beamwidth along major axis of beam cross section at -3 db
(half-power) level
ORIENTATION - orientation angle of beam about beam center
ELEVATION - angle formed by vector RS and a plane tangent to earth at
boresight intersection

The remainder of the printout gives the maximum and minimum beamwidth and a listing of the coordinates of the locus of intersection for each signal level.

Each set of input data is given a data set number. This number appears on the printout and the plot for each data set. This facilitates matching of plots with printout when more than one data set is run.

A modification of this program has recently been developed to plot the coverage of a multi-beam satellite. This new program computes the locus of intersection of a number of sets of input data as does the original. However, the modification plots all of the intersection loci on one set of axes so that uncovered areas and overlapped areas are immediately obvious.

The major changes to the original program are:

1. The plotter tape is opened and the axes are drawn before the main calculation begins.
2. The axes are scaled once at the beginning of the program rather than being scaled for each data set.
3. The computed coordinates are checked to see that they do not extend beyond the limits of the axes.
4. The plot origin is not reset for each data set.

IV. TYPICAL EXAMPLES

Figures 5-9 present the area coverage plots for input values shown in Table 1. For each case, 3, 5 and 10 dB level contours are plotted. The inputs represent a wide variety of cases--satellites positioned in circular, equatorial and geosynchronous orbits; satellites positioned in slightly inclined stationary orbits; and area coverage at small inclination angles.

Figure 10 shows the coverage provided by a 4-beam satellite positioned at 120°W longitude. All plots use the same set of axes. The input values for various beams are given in Table 2. All four beams are designed to provide complete coverage to the United States--beam 1 covers Hawaii, beam 2 covers Alaska, and beams 3 and 4 provide coverage to the other 48 states.

Table 1. Input Values for Coverage Plots shown in Figures 5-9

Input	Case I (Figure 5)	Case II (Figure 6)	Case III (Figure 7)	Case IV (Figure 8)	Case V (Figure 9)
Subsatellite Longitude	-115.00	-115.00	-115.00	-115.00	-115.00
Boresight Longitude	-157.00	-157.00	-74.00	-74.00	-74.00
Boresight Latitude	21.30	21.30	40.75	40.75	40.75
Declination (in degrees)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Minor-axis Beamwidth (in degrees)	1.50	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00
Major-axis Beamwidth (in degrees)	1.50	1.50	1.00	1.00	0.50
Orientation (in degrees)	0.00	- 25.00	0.00	0.00	40.00

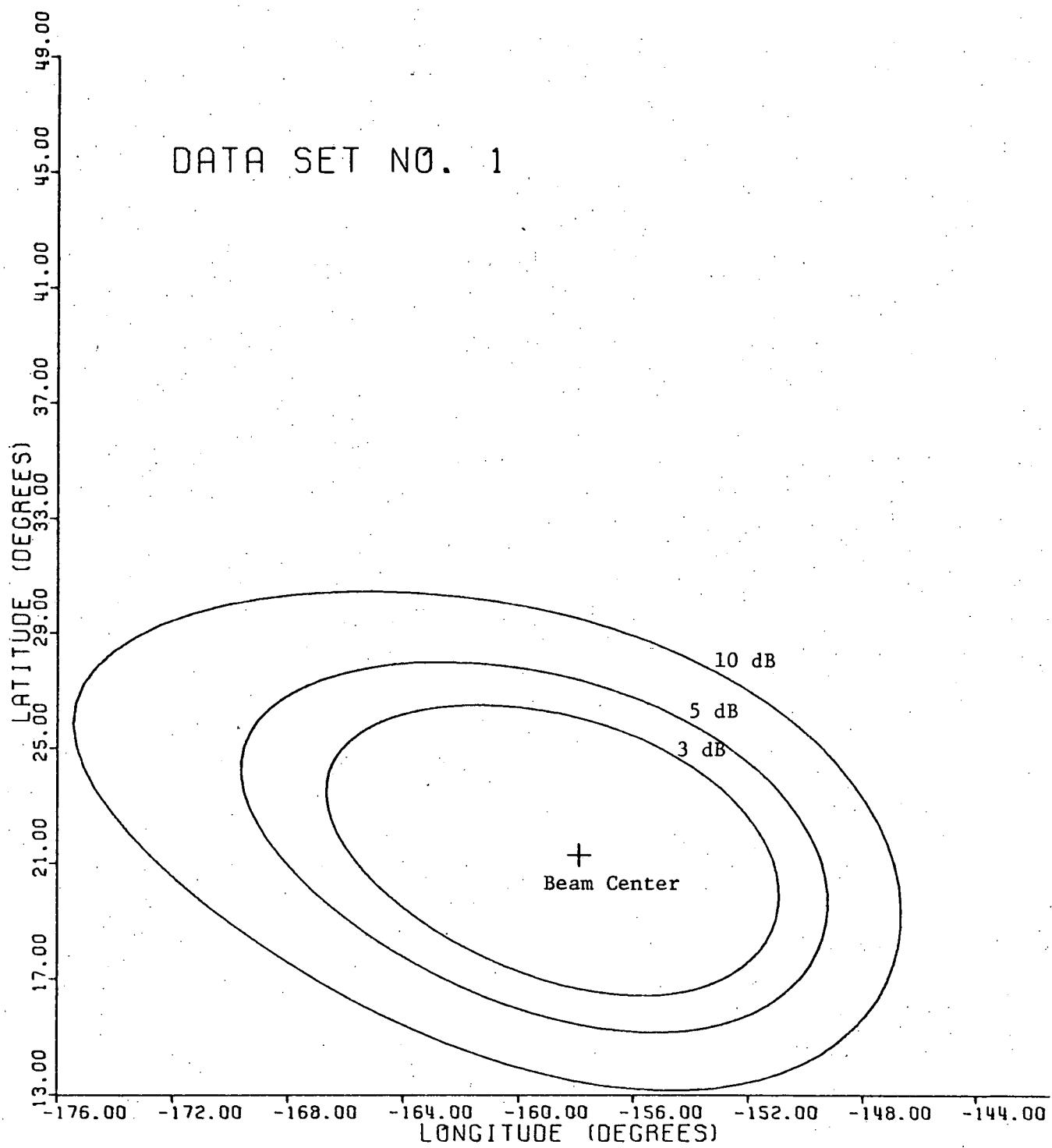


Figure 5

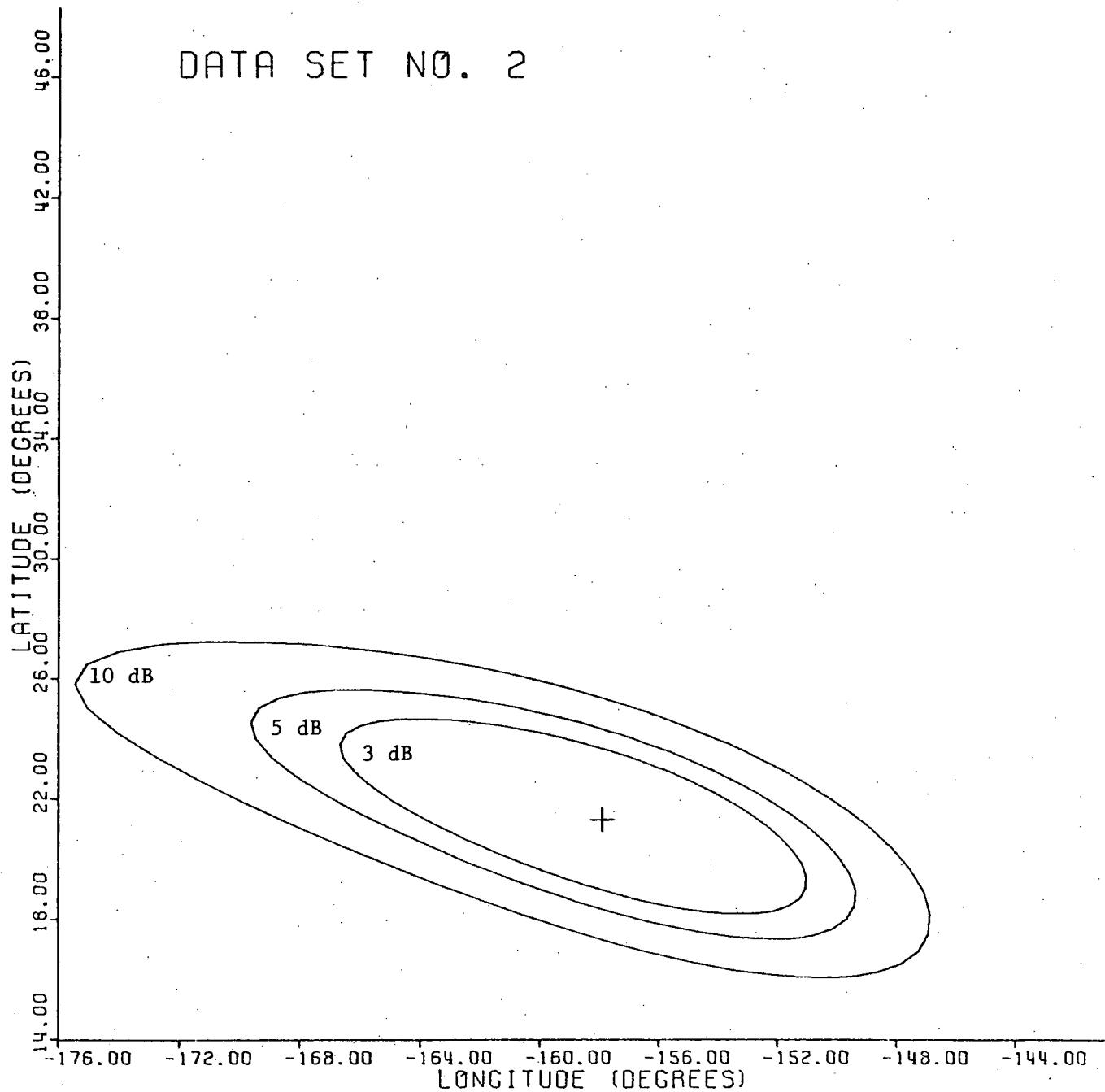


Figure 6

DATA SET NO. 3

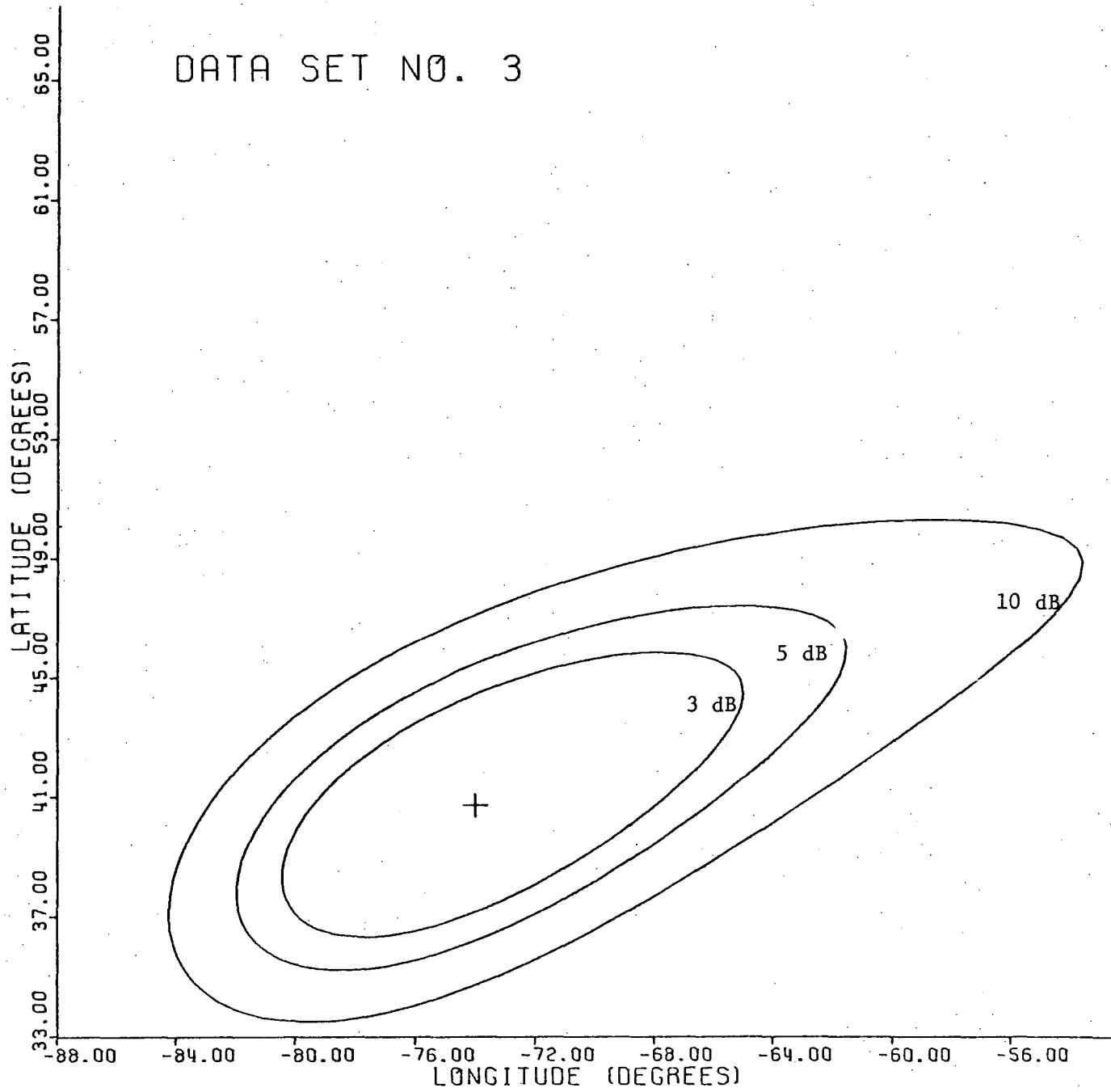


Figure 7

DATA SET NO. 4

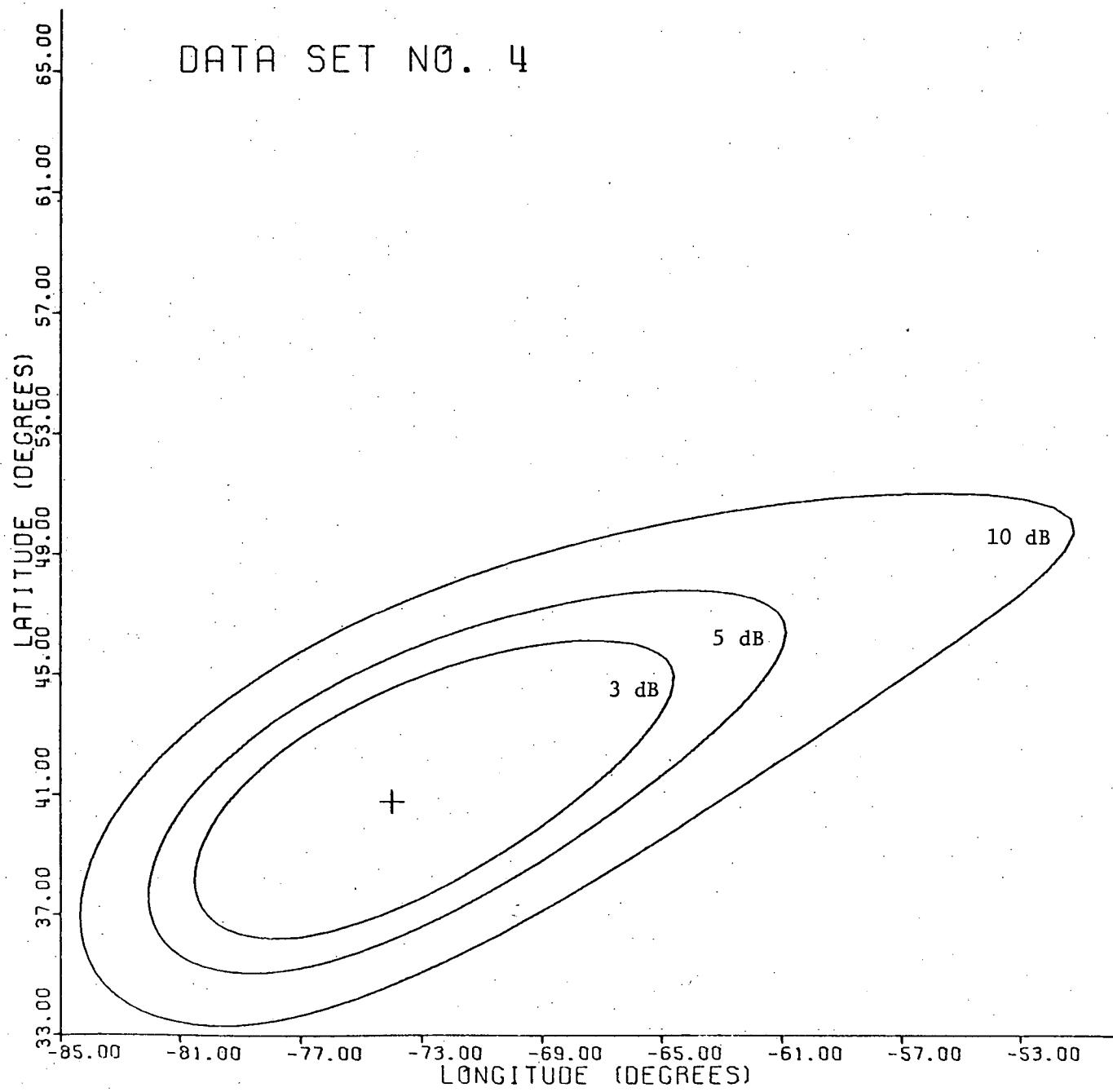


Figure 8

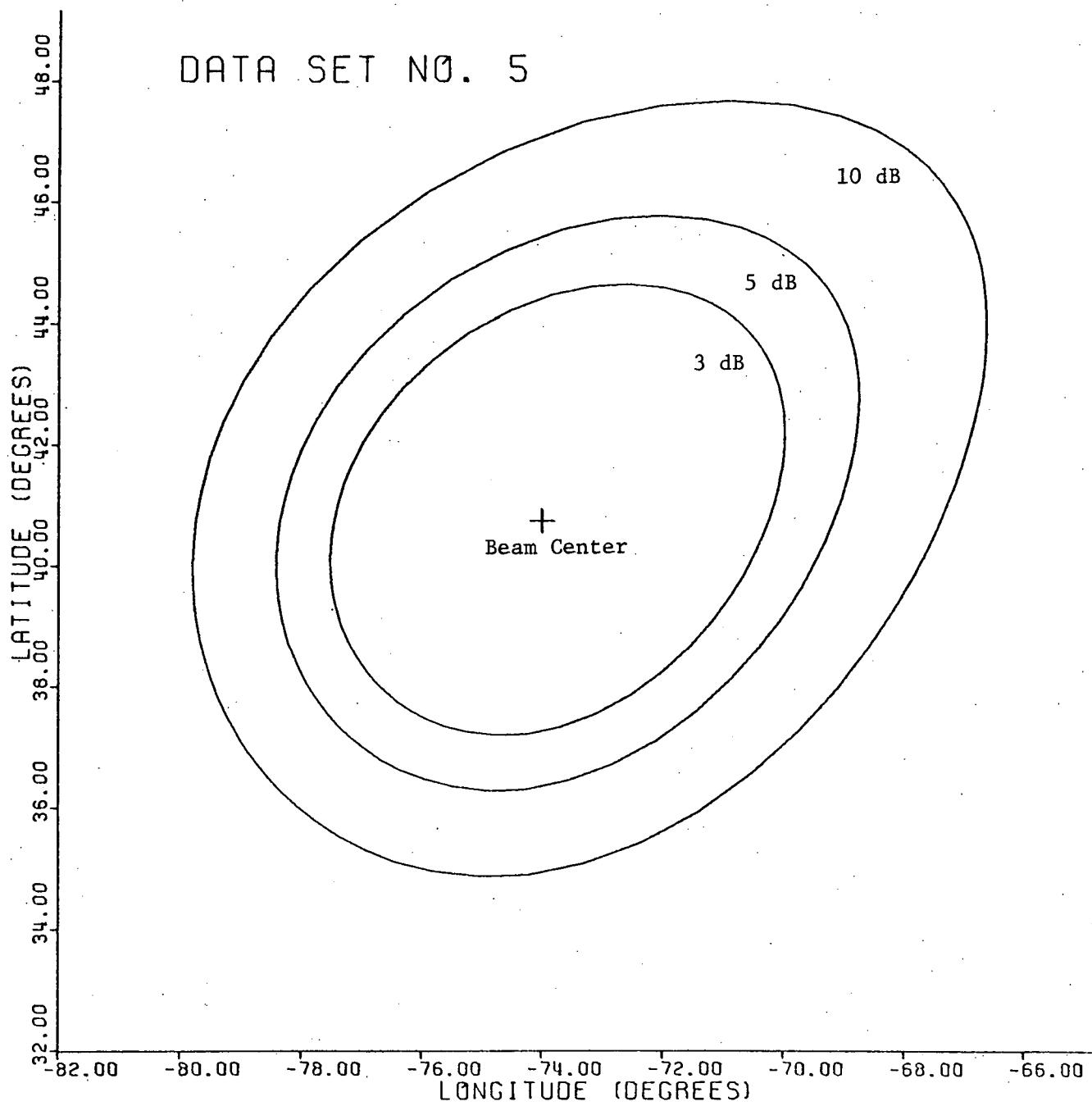


Figure 9

Table 2. Input Values for 4-Beam Coverage Plot Shown in Figure 10

Input	Hawaii	Alaska	Beam I for western and mountain states	Beam II for eastern and central states
Subsatellite Longitude	-120.00	-120.00	-120.00	-120.00
Bore sight Longitude	-158.00	-145.00	-112.00	-88.00
Bore sight Latitude	21.00	63.00	37.00	36.00
Satellite Declination (in degrees)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Minor-axis Beamwidth (in degrees)	1.50	1.50	3.30	3.30
Major-axis Beamwidth (in degrees)	2.00	2.30	3.40	3.70
Orientation (in degrees)	135.00	110.00	0.00	0.00

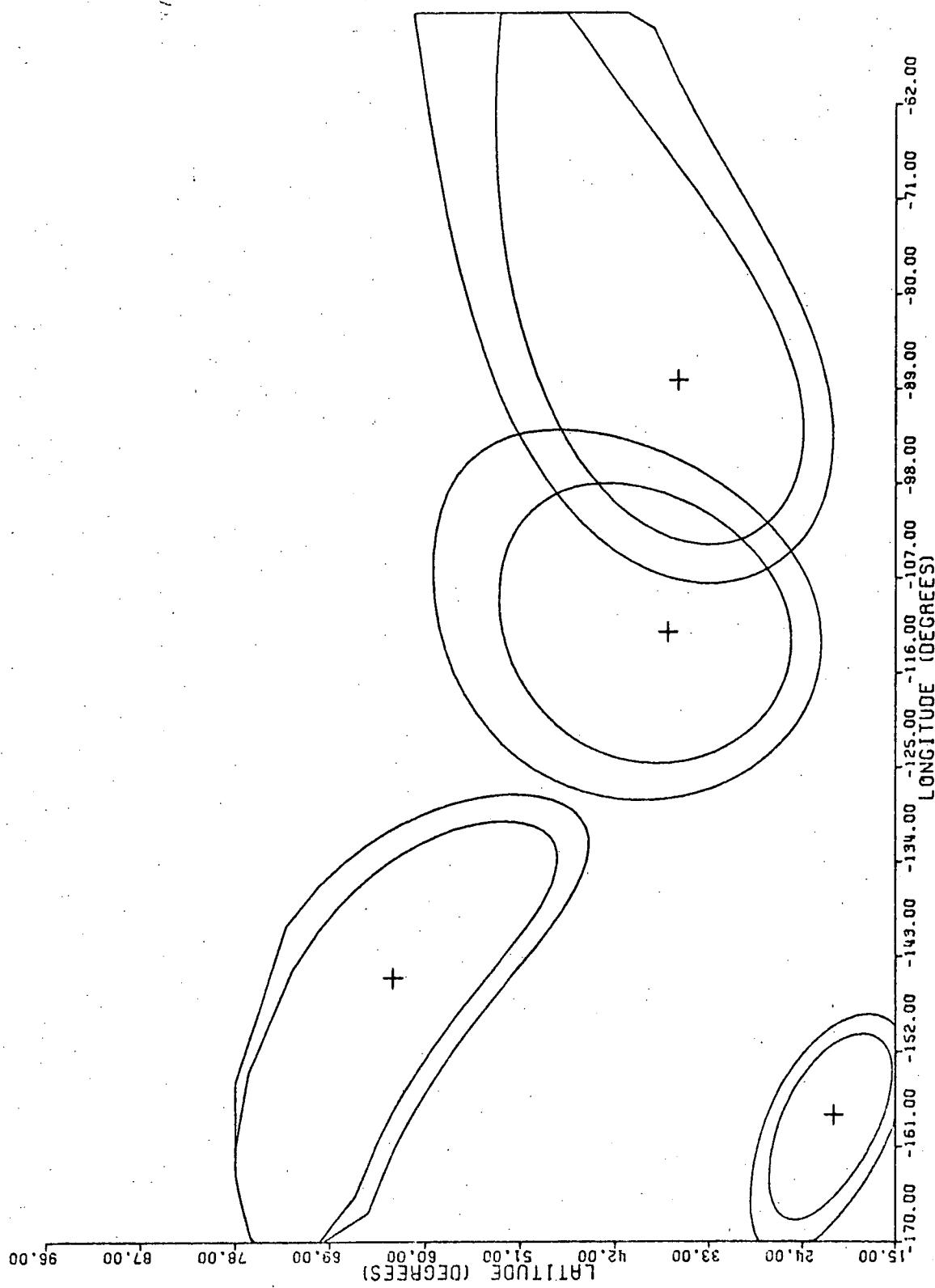


Figure 10. Four Beam Coverage of U.S. (see Table 2)

V. REFERENCES

1. S. L. Zolnay, "Earth Coverage ('Footprint') of a Satellite-Borne Antenna", Technical Note 1971-7, Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lexington, Massachusetts (February 5, 1971).
2. Theodore S. Saad, "Antennas" in Microwave Engineers Handbook (Vol. 2), Dedmam, Massachusetts: Artech House, Inc., p. 24.
3. W. Solfrey, "Earth Coverage Patterns with High Gain Antenna on Stationary Satellites", Memorandum RM-4894-NASA, The Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, California (1967).

APPENDIX A

PROGRAM LISTING


```

0043      GAM=DARSIN(REFDSIN(ALY/RSM)
0044          EL=(PI/2.0)-(AL+GAM)/CONVIR
0045          WRITE(6,300) EL
0046          300 FORMAT(4X,ELEVATION,6X,*,F9.3)
0047          DENOM=DSQRT(IRSX**2+RSY**2)
0048          PITCH=DARSIN(IRSX/DENOM)
0049          ROLL=DATAN(IRSZ/DENOM)
0050          CP=DCOS(PITCH)
0051          CR=DCOS(ROLL)
0052          SP=DSIN(PITCH)
0053          SR=DSIN(ROLL)
0054          NPLT=NPLT+
0055          IF(NPLT.GT.1)GO TO 15
0056          C FIRST PLOT, OPEN PLCTAPE AND SET ORIGIN
0057          CALL PLOTS(1BUF,1000)
0058          CALL PLOT(1.0,1.0,23)
0059          GO TO 12
0060          C NOT FIRST PLOT, SET ORIGIN
0061          15 CALL PLOT(1.0,1.0,-3)
0062          12 DO 31 K=L,L
0063          NDB=NDB+
0064          LDB=L-K+1
0065          C INTERPOLATE FOR RELATIVE BEAMWIDTH
0066          DO 8 J=1,8
0067          IF((UB(LDB)-DBS(J))>6.7,8
0068          RBW=RBWS(J)
0069          GO TO 9
0070          8 CONTINUE
0071          6 JI=J-1
0072          RBW=(DB(LDB)-DBS(JI))*(RBWS(JJ)-DBS(J))/DBS(JI)
0073          1
0074          9 A=RSM*Dtan(BW1*REW)
0075          B=RSM*Dtan(BW2*REW)
0076          ALPHI=BW1*REW
0077          ALPHI=BW2*REW
0078          NSTEPS=(360.0/DINC)+1
0079          BMdRH=DALPHA*RBW
0080          DO 10 ICT=1,NSTEPS
0081          BETAN=(ICT-1)*INC
0082          ANG=BETAN+THETA
0083          UM=1.0/DSQRT((DCCS(BETAN)/A)**2+(DSIN(BETAN)/B)**2)
0084          C COMPUTE N-TH M VECTOR FROM SATELLITE TO LOCUS ON EARTH
0085          MNPX=RSM*CR*SP*UM*DCOS(ANG)*CP-UM*DSIN(ANG)*SR*SP
0086          MNPY=RSM*CR*CP*UM*DCOS(ANG)*SP-UM*DSIN(ANG)*SR*CP
0087          MNPZ=RSM*SR*UM*DSIN(ANG)*CR
0088          MNX=MNPX
0089          MNY=MNPY+MNPZ*DSIN(DELT)
0090          MNZ=MNPY*(-DSIN(DELT))+MNPZ*DCOS(DELT)

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0086      BN=DARCOS(MNY/DSQRT(MNX**2+MNY**2+MNZ**2))
0087      LE(BN.GE.BM)COLTC_30
0088      CN=PI-DARSIN(LUSIN(BN)*DIST/RE)
0089      DN=PI-(BN+CN)
0090      MNL=DSQRT(*2+DIST**2-2.*RE*DST*DCOS(DN))
0091      DENOM=DSQRT(MNPX**2+MNPY**2)
0092      PITCHN=DARSIN(MNPX/DENOM)
0093      ROLLN=DAIAN(MNPZ/DENOM)
0094      C COMPUTE N-TH VECTOR FROM CENTER OF EARTH TO LOCUS
0095      REI=MNL*DCOS(ROLLN)*DSIN(PITCHN)
0096      REJ=MNL*DCOS(DELTA)-MNL*DCOS(ROLLN)*DCOS(PITCHN)
0097      REK=MNL*DSIN(ROLLN)-DIST*DSIN(DELTA)
0098      GO TO 40
C JE N-TH M VECTOR DOES NOT INTERSECT EARTH COMPUTE VECTOR
C FROM CENTER OF EARTH TO HORIZON SEEN BY SATELLITE
0099      30. TAUN=DARCOS(MNZ/DSQRT(MNX**2+MNY**2))
0100      IF(MNX.LT.0.OV)TAUN=-TAUN
0101      REI=RE*DCOS(BM)*DSIN(TAUN)
0102      REJ=RE*(-DCOS(DELTA)*DSIN(BM)-DSIN(DELTA)*DCOS(BM)*DCOS(TAUN))
0103      REK=RE*(-DSIN(DELTA)*DSIN(BM)+DCOS(DELTA)*DCOS(TAUN))
0104      40. DEN=DSQRT(REI**2+REJ**2)
0105      10. LON(VCT)=SNGL(DATAN(REK/DEN)/CONTR)
0106      WRITE(6,100)DB(LE9),ALPH1,ALPH2
0107      100.FORMAT(1H-,3X,A1,*F4.1,*F5.2//*
0108      1.   4X,*MIN_BWDTH=*,*F5.2//*
0109      2.   5X,*LONGITUDE*,7X,*LATITUDE*,5X,*DEGREES)*.6X,*DEGREES)*.
0110      3.   /
0111      0108  DO 80 I=1,NSTEPS
0112      80  WRITE(6,200) LON(I),LAT(I)
0113      200 FORMAT(1H,*4X,F9.3,6X,F9.3)
0114
C IF FIRST DB LEVEL PLOT AXES AND TITLES
0115      CALL SCALE(LLCN,9.0,NSTEPS,1)
0116      NP1=NSTEPS+1
0117      NP2=NSTEPS+2
0118      IF(LLCN(NP2)-LAT(NP2))90,91,92
0119      90  LCN(NP2)=LAT(NP2)
0120      91  GO TO 91
0121      92  LAT(NP2)=LCN(NP2)
0122      91  CALL AXIS(0.0,0.0,0.0,LONGITUDE (DEGREES)*.-19.,9.0,0.0,LAT(NP1),
0123      1.   LCN(NP2))
0124      1.   CALL AXIS(0.0,0.0,0.0,LATITUDE (DEGREES)*.18.,9.0,90.0,LAT(NP1),
0125      2.   LAT(NP2))
0126      2.   SCFCT=LCN(NP2)
0127      2.   FVN=LUN(NP1)

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MAIN

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```
0124      FVL T=LAT(NP1)
0125      XCT=(SNGL(DLONC1)-LON(NP1))/LON(NP2)
0126      YCT=(SNGL(DLA1CT)-LAT(NP1))/LAT(NP2)
0127      CALL SYMBOL(XCT,YCT,0.21,3.0,0,-1)
0128      CALL SYMBOL(1.0,8.0,0.21,'DATA SET NO. 0,0,0,13')
0129      N1=FLOAT(N)
0130      CALL NUMBER(999.0,999.0,0.21,N1,0.0,-1)
0131      93 LON(NP2)=SCFC1
0132      LAT(NP2)=SCFC1
0133      LON(NP1)=FVLN
0134      LAT(NP1)=FVLT
0135      C PLOT COORDINATES OF LOCUS
0136      CALL LINE(LON,LAT,NSTEPS,1,0,0)
0137      31 CONTINUE
0138      CALL PLCT(14.0,-1.0,23)
0139      GO TO 1
0140      1000 IF(NPLT.LE.0) GO TO 1001
0141      C CLOSE PLOT TAPE
0142      CALL PLCT(0.0,0.0,999)
0143      1001 WRITE(6,700) NPLT
0144      700 FORMAT('NUMBER OF PLOTS PRODUCED =',I3)
0145      STOP
0146      END
```